

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

I find this action by Sinclair Broadcasting Group of attempting to broadcast "Stolen Honor," an anti-John-Kerry smear, just weeks before our federal presidential elections, unconscionable and unscrupulous. Sinclair is licensed and entrusted with the public airwaves for the public interest. Claiming this alleged "documentary," whose sources are specious and spurious at best, is "news" to skirt FCC regulations regarding such a broadcast during an election cycle is the worst sort of partisan slam against John Kerry and his campaign with no proper opportunity for the Kerry campaign to respond in kind.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

As the guardians of the licensing of the public airwaves, I demand, as a U.S. Citizen, that the FCC quickly and with all due course investigate the Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. for trying to air this partisan broadcast, and that they either block the broadcast (preferable), revoke Sinclair Broadcast Group's Licenses for the affiliates where they demanded this partisan, non-news showing of "Stolen Honor" be shown as "news" (even more preferable), or immediately air after this program a pro-Kerry program like "Going Upriver" (least preferable, but acceptable). Thank you.